

From: Jason A. Tripp
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 3:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

I am an independent software developer in Northeastern North Carolina, and I just wish to comment on the upcoming settlement proposed in the Microsoft vs. US DOJ antitrust case. I believe there are very many key points which your proposed settlement did not address, but I believe one of the MAIN points to be that your settlement does not prohibit Microsoft from unfairly modifying (or prohibiting via licensing restrictions) programs based on the Windows API so that they will not run on non-Microsoft operating systems. This type of restrictive programming would force companies to do multiple ports of their software, a costly and time-consuming process, in order to get their software to run on multiple (and Microsoft-competitive) operating systems. The wording of the settlement should be changed to prohibit Microsoft from stopping programs based on the Windows API from running on operating systems other than Windows. After all, in my opinion most people use Windows just because there's so much software written for it; and that software, because of Microsoft's unfair business practices and licensing restrictions, will not run on other OS's. Microsoft would find itself faced with much stiffer (and more successful) competition if it could not unfairly restrict companies which are designing Windows API-based software in this way.

Sincerely,
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